

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAA-01 PA-01 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9014

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, LE, IS, MILI

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF AIDE OF BACHIR GEMAYEL ON CURRENT
SITUATION

1. EMBOFF MET AUGUST 1 WITH NAOUM FARAH, AIDE TO BACHIR
GEMAYEL, AT BACHIR'S HOUSE IN ASHRAFIYAH. FARAH SAID THE
FOLLOWING.

A. BOTH SA'AD HADDAD AND SAMI SHIDIAC HAD
REFUSED TO OBEY THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER TO RETURN TO
BEIRUT.

B. THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION IN SOUTH LEBANON
WOULD NOT MAKE IT TO TIBNIN. IT WOULD EITHER BE
FORCED TO WITHDRAW TO BEIRUT OR TO REMAIN IN KAWKABA. IF
IT REMAINED IN KAWKABA, IT WOULD "FALL APART."

C. THIS BATTALION WAS NOT REALLY A LEBANESE FORCE

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BUT A PRO-SYRIAN ONE. ALTHOUGH THE PHALANGE DID NOT
SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE PRESENT BATTALION SOUTH,
IT HAD NOT ORDERED CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN IN THE SOUTH TO
OPPOSE THE BATTALION'S ENTRY. INSTEAD, THE PHALANGE
HAD TOLD THE MILITIAMEN THEY HAD "FREE CHOICE ON THE
MATTER." THE PHALANGE HAD SAID THIS BECAUSE IT
HAD NO CONTROL OVER THESE MILITIAMEN, WHO WERE IN

EFFECT UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE ISRAELIS.

D. BACHIR GEMAYEL HAD NOT VISITED ISRAEL. ISRAEL WAS DELIVERING ARMS TO THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN THE BEIRUT AREA, HOWEVER. THESE ARMS WERE ALL SOVIET-MADE. NONE WERE FROM THE UNITED STATES. MOREOVER, THE ARMS DELIVERED WERE NOT EVEN THE BEST QUALITY SOVIET ARMS WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAD ON HAND. THUS, THE CHRISTIANS WERE NOT GETTING THE WEAPONS THEY NEEDED.

E. THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA DID NOT HAVE THE DISCIPLINE OF A REGULAR ARMY, AND NO CHRISTIAN LEADER COULD COMPLETELY PREVENT SNIPING AGAINST THE SYRIAN SOLDIERS. NOR COULD ANY CHRISTIAN LEADER MAKE MOST OF THE MILITIAMEN GIVE UP THEIR ARMS. IF THERE WERE A MAJOR SYRIAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS, THE ONLY WAY TO STOP IT WAS FOR "ISRAEL TO SHOW HER TEETH."

F. THE CHRISTIANS IN BEIRUT WERE FACED WITH A STARK CHOICE: EITHER THE SYRIAN ARMY WOULD WITHDRAW OR THE CHRISTIANS WOULD BE MASSACRED. AS A FIRST STEP, THE GOL SHOULD DEPLOY THE ARMY TO EAST BEIRUT TO TAKE OVER SECURITY FUNCTIONS FROM THE SYRIANS. THE PHALANGE WOULD WILLINGLY ACCEPT MIXED MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN LEBANESE ARMY UNITS. THE GOL SHOULD HAVE SENT THE ARMY TO EAST BEIRUT BEFORE SENDING IT SOUTH.

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G. THE FIGHTING AT THE QARANTINA BRIDGE ON JULY 31 HAD BEEN QUITE SERIOUS. FORTY-TWO CIVILIANS HAD BEEN WOUNDED AND NINE KILLED. THE FIGHTING HAD STARTED WHEN THE SYRIANS MOVED IN AN AMMUNITION CONVOY TO RESUPPLY THEIR POSITIONS AT THE BRIDGE. TO COVER THE ENTRANCE TO THIS CONVOY, THE SYRIANS HAD SHELLED NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS IN EAST BEIRUT FROM ABOUT 1700 TO 1730 HOURS.

H. THE PHALANGE WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHELLING OF THE PORT THE MORNING OF JULY 31. INSTEAD THE SHELLS HAD COME FROM THE WEST, PRESUMABLY FIRED BY THE SYRIANS TO KEEP THE PORT CLOSED.

I. TENSION REMAINED HIGH BETWEEN THE PHALANGE AND FRANJIYAHs. VIRTUALLY ALL PHALANGE BUREAU OFFICES IN NORTH LEBANON HAD BEEN CLOSED, AND THE PHALANGE PRESENCE IN EFFECT NOW EXTENDED ONLY TO THE NORTHERN BORDER OF JAIL CAZA.

2. COMMENT: MUCH OF WHAT FARAH SAID IS DISINGENUOUS.

WE ARE REPORTING IT, HOWEVER, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE CURRENT
PHALANGE LINE. END COMMENT.
PARKER

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